

Taking Your Faith Private



Part 2 – Tolerance and Intolerance

Taking Your Faith Private

Why Take On This Series?



1. As Christians, we are called to speak (about) the Truth.
2. As Christians, we are called to live as witnesses to Christ, ambassadors to the world, and to remain distinct from culture.
3. We feel the pressure to remain silent, or to live out our faith privately, but we are largely unaware of the reasons for this pressure, or why it is happening.
4. Many of us have come to accept the premises (ideas) that contribute to our silence.

Taking Your Faith Private

Why Take On This Series?



There is a growing pressure in society for Christians to remain silent and hide their faith. While some of us occasionally encounter this pressure, many of us are unaware of just how far it has spread or how deeply it is engrained in our culture. Some of us have unconsciously bought into the belief that we should keep our faith to ourselves, and most would mistakenly conclude that they came to this belief on their own. This pressure is not accidental nor naturally evolving. It is not something new. It is and has been carefully planned and has its roots going back over six decades. But its greatest effects have yet to be felt. This pressure to keep our faith private will only increase during our lifetime.

Taking Your Faith Private

Social Stigma



- Stigma - An attribute, behavior or reputation which is socially discrediting, causing an individual to be labeled as a deviant from the norm.
- Stigma is societally enforced.*
- Prejudice - A preconceived (often unfounded) judgment towards persons because of gender, social class, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, etc.
- Passing - A cultural performance where a member of a stigmatized group acts in a way to avoid the stigma associated with that group, including: (1) fabrication, (2) concealment, (3) avoidance.

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Social Stigma



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Social Stigma



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Tolerance



Tolerance:^{OLD}

To allow all views to be expressed; to accept the existence of varying views.

“I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

- Voltaire

Tolerance:^{NEW}

To accept all views as equally true; to avoid offense to anyone; to tolerate everything except intolerance.

Intolerance:

To oppose anyone's belief or opinion; to assert any belief as exclusive; to stand against the new tolerance.

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Tolerance



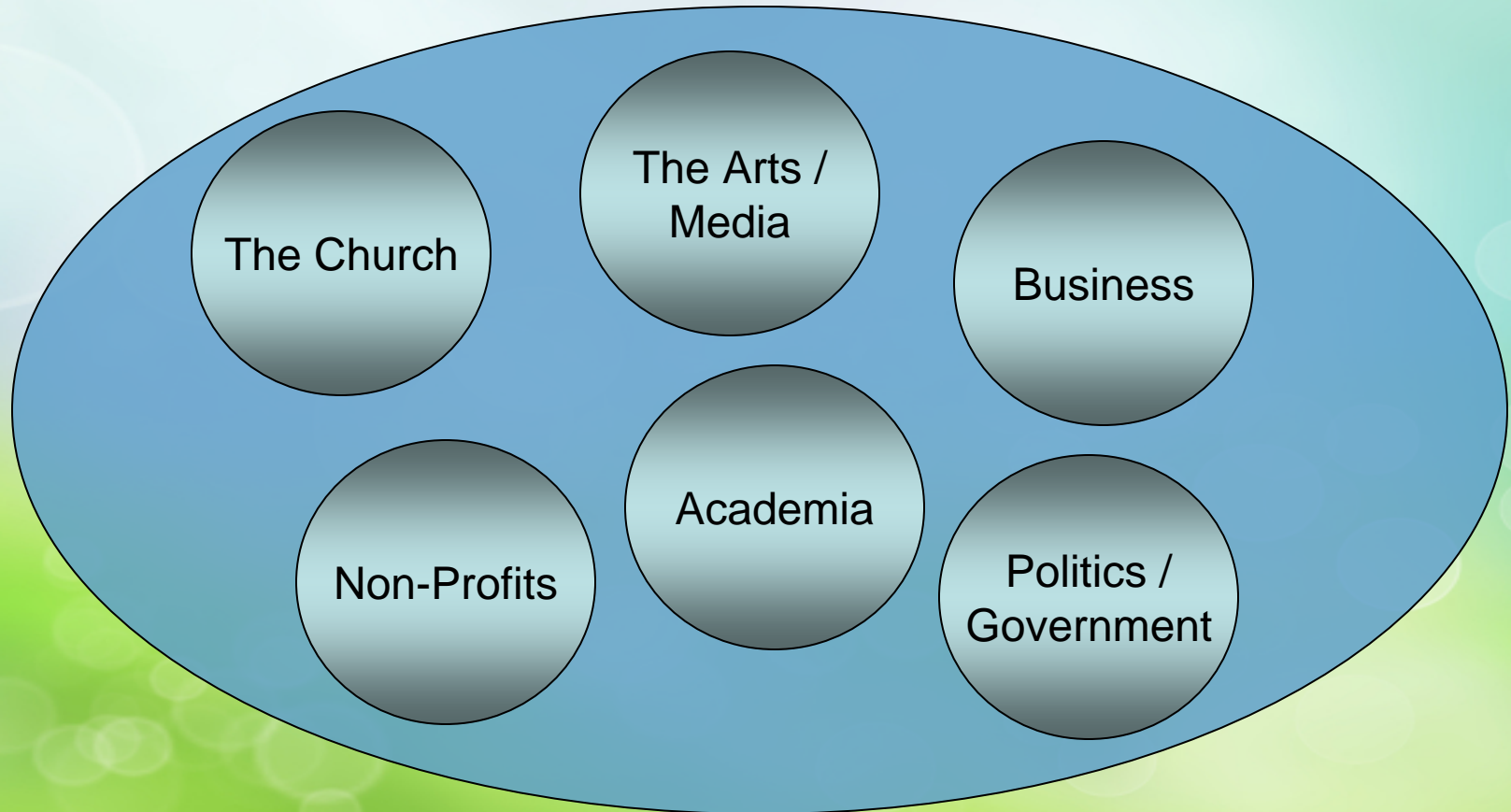
School officials banned an on-campus, university Christian organization from meeting to discuss sexual ethics on the ground that the orthodox Christian view is offensive to homosexuals.

Christian view	=	offensive to someone
Intolerant (defn)	=	offensive; non-inclusive
Christian view	=	intolerant

What would happen if Christians complained that allowing a LGTB club on campus was offensive to them?

Taking Your Faith Private

Key Influencers



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Key Influencers



Knowledge Influencers:

- Academic Think Tanks
- Elite Research Universities
- Law Schools / Public Policy Schools
- Elite Opinion Magazines / Journals
- Elite Book Publishers
- First and Second Tier Colleges
- High End Journalism
- **Seminaries and Divinity Schools**
- Elite Private Schools
- **Practical Journalism**
- Mass-Market Book Publishing
- **Churches and Places of Worship**
- Public Education
- **Christian Schools**

Media / Artistic Influencers:

- Visual Arts
- Literature and Poetry
- Classical & Orchestral Music
- Theater & Dance
- Museums
- Public Television
- Public Radio
- Public Museums
- Film
- Jazz & Special Music
- High-End Advertising Agencies
- Primetime Television
- Mass Market Movies
- Popular Music
- Cable Television

Taking Your Faith Private

The Result



- Stigma:** Christians are socially discrediting, causing a pressure to conform to the norm, or at least avoid deviating from the norm.
- Secularization:** An effort to transform society from close identification with religious values and institutions towards nonreligious values and secular institutions.
- A belief in dualism, where our public lives are devoid of religious expression, and any religious beliefs are kept strictly private.

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Coming Up...



- Why Do We Need To Speak Out At All?

Aren't our good actions enough?

Haven't we done enough harm in speaking publicly?

- Isn't Secularization A Neutral Stance?
- How Should We Live As Christ Followers In An Increasingly Pluralistic and Secular Society?

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FEEDBACK, QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS, AND WE WOULD
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INTERACTIVE

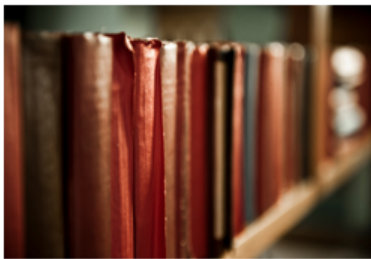


Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

[Read more](#)

THOUGHTFUL



Test everything, hold on to what is good...

Many hours of research are dedicated to prepare each one of our series. We explore the scriptures, the breadth of Christian scholarship, contemporary authors, and consider a wide range of sources outside of our faith.

[Read more](#)

FAITHFUL



Set apart Christ as Lord...

We all have questions. But we learn together in a way that tackles the deepest part of our doubts while making sure that our purpose is clear: to always know the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and to be prepared to share that answer with everyone who asks us about that hope.

[Read more](#)